

Mr. Speaker, the United States stands for freedom and we have always shared the goals of others around the world who strive for democracy. These cowardly attacks are an assault on free people everywhere, and we must act now to condemn them and immediately increase pressure on this evil regime. I urge my colleagues to join with me in condemning these despicable attacks.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi once said, "Please use your liberty to promote our's (Burma's)." I believe I just did. I encourage others to heed this plea as well.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WAYNE BUTLER  
AND MR. JOHN SPARKMAN

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memories of two individuals who made important contributions to Missouri agriculture, Wayne Butler and John Sparkman. As friends and neighbors, these men will be remembered for the indelible impression they left on Missouri's farmsteads and ranches.

These men exemplified the strength of our Nation through their passion for community involvement. Wayne was a cattleman and forage producer who understood the importance of community service. John was a dairyman and outspoken advocate for issues impacting Missouri agriculture.

Over the years, southwest Missouri and I benefited greatly from the leadership, wise counsel and combined experience of Wayne and John. Both men served as the president of the Greene County Missouri Farm Bureau Chapter and as members of my Southwest Missouri Agriculture/Agri-Business Advisory Committee.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The spirit of our citizens will make this government in practice what it is in principle, a model for the protection of man in a state of freedom and order." Wayne and John were men of faith, family and community. They will be missed; however, their love and dedication to Missouri agriculture will endure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM ACT  
OF 2003

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Higher Education For Freedom Act. This legislation establishes a competitive grant program making available funds to institutions of higher education, centers within such institutions, and associated nonprofit foundations to promote programs focused on the teaching and study of traditional American history, free institutions, and the history and achievements of Western Civilization at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including those that serve students enrolled in K-12 teacher education programs.

Several years ago I was involved in a congressional effort to highlight the decline in his-

torical and civic literacy among American college students. This effort led to the unanimous, bicameral passage of a concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 129, which stated, in part, that "the historical illiteracy of America's college and university graduates is a serious problem that should be addressed by the Nation's higher education community."

Given the increased threat to American ideals in the trying times in which we live, it is easy to see how the lack of historical and civic literacy among today's college students has become a more pressing issue. Nevertheless, most of the Nation's colleges and universities no longer require U.S. history or systematic study of Western civilization and free institutions as a general prerequisite to graduation, or for completing a teacher education program.

I believe it is time for Congress to take a more active role in addressing this matter. Our country's higher education system must do a better job of providing the basic knowledge that is essential to full and informed participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy of the American experiment in self-government, binding together a diverse people into a single Nation with common purposes.

HONORING COURTNEY NORTON

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Courtney Norton, who recently completed the seventh grade at Main Street Junior High School in Madera, California. Courtney was awarded first place prize for the Western Region in the Annual Elks Writing Contest for an entry she submitted while in the sixth grade at Lincoln Elementary School in Madera. The writing prompt was "What does the flag of the United States of America stand for?" Courtney responded to the prompt with this poem:

I am the Star Spangled Banner,  
The flag of the United States of America,  
I stand for freedom, peace, justice, liberty,  
and dreams,

I have seen every battle fought by our country  
over the last two hundred years,

I have been flown in France, Korea, Vietnam  
and Rome.

I have been ripped, torn, spit on, burnt and  
trampled, but I still stand proud.

I stand for immigrants who gave their lives  
to make this country a better place to live.

I stand for every soldier in every war who  
fought for this country.

I stand for a nation of love, hope, and oppor-  
tunities.

These colors don't run!

I am worshipped, loved, saluted and re-  
spected.

I stand for the United States of America, the  
land of the free and the home of the  
brave.

FOREVER MAY I WAVE!

As a result of her first place prize, Norton was invited to the Elks annual convention in San Diego to read her poem for the conventioners. Her poem also caught the attention

of Operation Mom, an organization of mothers of the military, who asked Courtney for her permission to include a copy of her poem in each of the thousands of care packages that they send to the service men and women posted overseas. In addition, the organization invited Norton to present her poem at their Operation Welcome Home Rally, scheduled for August 19, 2003, in Livermore, California.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Courtney Norton for her outstanding accomplishments, patriotic spirit, and support for our men and women in uniform. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Courtney many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member was in his congressional district on official business on Monday, June 2, 2003, and therefore missed three rollcall votes. If this Member had been present, he would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 227 (H. Res. 159, expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of Texas State Representative Irma Rangel)—"aye";

Rollcall No. 228 (H. Res. 195, congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for hitting 500 major league home runs)—"aye"; and

Rollcall No. 229 (H.R. 1465, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4832 East Highway 27 in Iron Station, North Carolina, as the "General Charles Gabriel Post Office")—"aye".

UPPER DUBLIN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH CELEBRATES 250TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on its 250th anniversary of community involvement and dedication.

Since its beginning in 1753, the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church has represented the efforts of an entire community. The building itself has changed several times, but the underlying spirit never wavered.

The Upper Dublin Lutheran Church represents a long history of helping the community. The church's involvement includes helping soldiers as far back as the Revolutionary War. The dedication of its members continued, even when the church itself was destroyed and rebuilt. A tradition was started with Harvest Homes when members of the community would bring fruits and vegetables they could spare from their harvest to give to the less fortunate. The church also started "Puff's Broadcaster," a 12-page monthly newsletter providing poetry, business tips, stories of moral integrity, and important announcements for the community.